



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

NOV 18 2008



MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Mobilization of Reserve Component Medical Personnel Supporting the
Local Medical Infrastructure during an Influenza Pandemic

The National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan tasked the Department of Defense (DoD) to implement guidelines defining conditions under which non-activated Reserve Component (RC) medical personnel who provide care in local facilities should be mobilized under 10 U.S.C. 12301 or 12302 in the event of an influenza pandemic.

If RC medical personnel are mobilized, the civilian medical infrastructure may lose a significant portion of its operating staffs. During a nationwide pandemic, hiring additional personnel or bringing in providers from other areas could not compensate for these losses. Mobilization of RC personnel could exacerbate existing medical personnel shortages and result in the collapse of the local health care system, creating a requirement for state or federal support where one had not existed.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) convened a work group representing reserve elements from the Services to develop recommendations for mobilization and deployment. The work group developed the following parameters for consideration by the Services:

- Mobilize RC medical personnel during an influenza pandemic only to maintain operational effectiveness
- If mobilization is required, use Reserve forces first, leaving National Guard forces to be available to meet their state-based missions
- Mobilize individuals from both the Selected Reserve (SELRES) and the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)
- Mobilize individuals directly supporting the civilian medical response as a last resort
- Assign individuals as close to their home of record as possible



- When it is necessary to mobilize an entire unit, use non-alerted units that are as close to the projected duty location as possible

I recommend the Military Departments consider these parameters when determining mobilization and deployment of Reserve Component personnel during an influenza pandemic.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David S.C. Chu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a horizontal line at the end.

David S.C. Chu

cc: Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)